

STIMULUS-DEPENDENT ELECTRONIC DEVICE**Abstract**

Herein is disclosed a method, system, and apparatus for deterring theft of portable
5 electronic devices. A portable electronic device is rendered incapable of properly
operating after being powered down, without at least some exposure for some time to a
given stimulus during a subsequent power-up sequence. A source of the stimulus is
provided within a locality from which the devices are not to be removed. Transmission
of the stimulus is limited to a region of space within the locality.